

standardized tests and overall academic excellence.

The school's philosophy of education is built upon the expectation of success in all students. South Ripley Junior High School focuses on helping each student develop individual success academically and personally. To that end, the core curriculum supports college and career readiness to develop the skills students need in everyday life, such as problem-solving, as well as reading and writing effectively. In addition, South Ripley's faculty and staff continuously work with students to meet their social, emotional, and academic needs and help students develop strong character.

I am proud to recognize South Ripley Junior High School principal Destiny Rutzel, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Versailles community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate South Ripley Junior High, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Union Elementary School of Zionsville, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Union Elementary School opened at its current location in 2007 and currently serves over 600 students. Union Elementary prides itself on creating a nurturing and collaborative learning environment, where teachers, students, and teachers work together so that all students can reach their potential. Teachers utilize a wide variety of assessment practices to measure student progress, make instructional decisions, and to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs.

Union Elementary School seeks to ensure students are enriched both during and after school. The school has an outdoor classroom, which includes native Indiana wildflowers, a butterfly garden, and vegetable gardening space, allowing creativity to go beyond the traditional classroom. Students are offered various extracurricular activities, including foreign language clubs, art enrichment, engineering club, a kids fitness program—Fit Kidz—and a drama club.

Union Elementary maintains a high standard for academic excellence, which can be attributed to the success of a rigorous curriculum, innovative instructional practices, and a highly qualified and dedicated staff. Faculty works closely with parents to ensure their children are receiving a quality education. Parents are encouraged to be an active part in their child's learning from serving as field trip chaperones to volunteering in the classroom. Union Elementary School's dedication to student achievement and positive atmosphere have been key to its success. The school's staff and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character and better the community.

I am proud to recognize Union Elementary School principal Jennifer Raycroft, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Zionsville communities well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Union Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING WEST CLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF CARMEL, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize West Clay Elementary School of Carmel, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

West Clay Elementary opened in August 2006, with a mission to provide opportunities for all students to realize their potential. Every year since its inception, West Clay has been named an Indiana Four-Star School based upon high achievement results on standardized tests.

West Clay strives to provide a quality education to students through the tireless work of its dedicated staff, who serve in various leadership roles, such as school committee chairs. West Clay's mindset is on constantly striving to improve through reflection and staff development.

West Clay students, parents, and staff work closely together to give back to the community through philanthropic initiatives led by the parent teacher organization, PTO, and student government. Their efforts support organizations such as Riley Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association,

the American Diabetes Association, the Humane Society, and Gleaner's Food Bank. Over the last decade, the students and staff of West Clay have helped raise over \$60,000 which resulted in the donation of countless supplies to local organizations.

West Clay works to provide students with a positive learning environment to support their social, emotional, and academic needs. For example, West Clay has many student support services, including an instructional coach, who partners with staff to develop appropriate programs that will enhance student learning and will ensure that students are challenged, while at the same time supported in an effort to enable students to reach their potential. These staff members play an integral part in determining student learning needs through analyzing data and gauging students' interests.

I am proud to recognize West Clay Elementary School principal Jennifer Szuhaj, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Carmel community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate West Clay Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING WESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF GREENFIELD, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Weston Elementary School of Greenfield, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Weston Elementary consistently has distinguished itself as a top-performing school, was named an Indiana Four Star School in 2013 and 2016, and has been named an A school by the State each of the past 5 years.

Weston's success can be attributed to the school's goal of continuously looking for ways to provide a well-rounded education to students. The school emphasizes problem-solving and assignments that allow students to demonstrate their work and thought process. In addition to core subjects, students are exposed to physical education, art and music, and several classes participate in daily exercise led by prerecorded video segments from the Indianapolis Colts. Weston also offers students Weston Fit, an after-school fitness club that promotes